

# TZEDEK V'SHALOM NEWS



NOVEMBER 2012

CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5773

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 3

FROM RABBI ANNA BOSWELL-LEVY...

## HURRICANE SANDY: THE AFTERMATH

As I write these words, Hurricane Sandy is about an hour away from making landfall. Every network station (no cable at our house) has turned itself into a news only station, and the weather and its effects locally, in New Jersey, and in New York City are the only news worthy of their concern. I'm caught between the inclination to refresh weather.gov and wunderground.com incessantly (while I still have internet and power) and the awareness that keeping an eye on the storm's movement doesn't actually help me or anyone I might be worried about who lives in its path. I think we're all a little bit manic today, a little bit on edge, knowing that something potentially terrible is coming and we are powerless to stop it or to truly predict what the future holds.

I was reminded by a colleague on a rabbi listserv I am on that in the mishna, in Tractate Brachot (Blessings), we learn that when we witness a strong storm, we should pray "Blessed are You, our God, Ruler of the Universe, whose power fills the world." And for mild storms, we say: "Blessed are You, our God, who made all of creation."

It's remarkable that our tradition instructs us to offer blessings even at moments of difficulty and fear. It would be easy to respond to the might of a hurricane with curses, but the sages of the mishna argued other-

wise. Strong winds and driving rain can be a reminder that there is a power in the world greater than we. Hurricanes are awesome in the original sense of the word — and awe is not always a pretty thing. Awe is the feeling of smallness and vulnerability we face when we either witness or are forced to witness the might of the Earth and its Creator on a grand scale.

This is one legitimate response we might have in the face of such awe-some and awe-ful weather. My colleague and friend Rabbi Arthur Waskow has noted that "this is a storm unlike any we've seen before because the earth is doing things it has never done before. The water along the Atlantic coast is 5 degrees hotter than usual, supercharging Sandy's rainfall, and drawing the strength of the storm further north. Already too-high tides will be pushed dangerously higher by this storm."

He continues, "Despite these rapid changes, our politicians have dropped climate from their agenda. So, in addition to preparing to stay safe, let's prepare to connect the dots between this storm and the overburning of fossil fuels. We need to put climate change back [to] front and center in the public conversation."

In other words, the ferocity of the weather conditions we are learning to take for granted has a great deal to do with the choices we have made about how

(Continued on page 4)

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# November Services and Celebrations



**Friday, November 2**

**First Friday**

Shabbat Services followed by potluck  
 6:30 p.m. Completely Singing Service  
 7:30 p.m. Dairy Delicious Potluck  
 Location: The Mollie Dodd Library at  
 George School  
 Directions: Turn into GS at the second  
 entrance south of the Newtown bypass.  
 Parking is on your left; the library is  
 across from the meetinghouse.

**Saturday, November 10**

**Torah Study**

10 a.m. – noon  
 Location: at the home of Debbie and Victor Chong  
 417 Edgeboro Drive  
 Newtown, PA 18940  
 215-504-9268 or [weederwiz@aol.com](mailto:weederwiz@aol.com)

**Saturday, November 17**

**Shabbat Service**

**Abigail Yaffe Bat Mitzvah**  
 9:15 a.m.  
 Location: Newtown Friends  
 Meeting House (NFMH)  
 219 Court St., Newtown  
 18940



**Friday, December 7**

**First Friday**

**Human Rights Shabbat**

Shabbat Services followed by potluck  
 6:30 p.m. Completely Singing Service  
 7:30 p.m. Dairy Delicious Potluck

**Human Rights Shabbat 2012**



*Thankful*



**צדק ושלום Tzedek v'Shalom**



P.O. Box 863  
 Newtown, PA 18940  
 (215) 860-0119  
[tzedekvshalom@gmail.com](mailto:tzedekvshalom@gmail.com)  
<http://tzedekvshalom.org>  
 Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy  
 215-287-5128

President: Jerry Manas	215-341-6413
Treasurer:	
Arnie Gold (Finance Chair)	215-295-2028
Education (Committee Chair, Open)	
Membership (Committee Co-Chairs)	
Linda Gold	215-741-4571
Debby Bossio (Fundraising)	215-801-2005
Communications	
Bob Abrahamson	215-968-1956
Shammus Coordinator	
Ralph Posmontier	215-579-2644
Spiritual Life (Committee Chair)	
Diane Gold	215-295-2028

Tikkun Olam (Committee Chair, Open)  
 Past Co-Presidents:  
 Wendy Friedman (Fund-raising) 215-579-9275  
 Noa Kuzma (Fund-raising) 215-493-8418

Intergenerational Activities/Events/  
 Adult Ed (Liaison) - OPEN

Please feel free to contact any member of  
 our Board for any additional information.



Non-Board Committee Chairs and Coordinators:

Acts of Caring	
Debbie Chong	215-504-9268
Jeanlu Ryersbach	215-943-4565
Teen Class	
Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy	215-287-5128
Webmaster	
Jerry Manas	215-698-7957
Newsletter Editor: Naomi Mindlin	215-757-8921

To submit news to the newsletter:  
 email: [nsmindlin@photoreview.org](mailto:nsmindlin@photoreview.org)



## SECOND FIRST FRIDAY

WHO? You, your friends, your family!  
 WHAT? Tzedek v'Shalom's First Fridays  
 WHEN? November 2, 2012, 6:30 service; 7:30 potluck  
 WHERE? The Mollie Dodd Library at the George School  
 WHY? Shabbat! Community! Song!

**FIRST FRIDAY**, our spirited Shabbat event that takes place every month on the first Friday, is our newest tradition! We begin with an all-singing, hour-long service that is followed by a dairy potluck. Please tell all your friends and come out and sing in Shabbat with us! Families and kids are welcome, as always.



Elana Braz coordinates the monthly potlucks to ensure we have a balance of food contributions, so please be in touch with her about what you plan to bring. Her email is [elanabraz@verizon.net](mailto:elanabraz@verizon.net).

### Adult Ed

#### Thursday evening study at the home of the Chongs

5:30 Aleph Isn't Enough, for those who want to build vocabulary and roots, and basic skills of reading, grammar, and translation

6:00 Prophets, using the Haftarah portions connected with the weekly Torah portions

In November, we'll meet the 8th, 15th, and 29th.

(No class on November 1.)

Please contact me if you have questions about this weekly study session.

Debbie

215-504-9268 or [weederwiz@aol.com](mailto:weederwiz@aol.com)



### Board News

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, November 14, at 7 p.m. at the Posmontiers' home, 32 N. Lincoln Avenue, Newtown, PA 18940..

Contact information for the Board is always on page 2 of the newsletter.



### Spiritual Life News

The next Spiritual Life Committee meeting will be Thursday November 29th , 9:30 a.m., at Rabbi Anna's home at 3331 Pine Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

Please call Arnie or me with any questions.

Diane Gold, Spiritual Life Chair  
[agoldn1@aol.com](mailto:agoldn1@aol.com) or 215-295-2028

### TvS Romeo and Juliet Club

The ROMEO and JULIET lunch club meets every month at a location generally determined when the group dines. For information about the venue for the November soiree, or any questions, please contact me.

Joel Bacher

[carojoel@comcast.net](mailto:carojoel@comcast.net).

\* Reconstructionist Old Men Eating Out and Jewish Unorthodox Ladies Interested in Eating and Talking



### Community Announcements

**Sh'ma Online:** Too big to fail? Too crucial to discard? What place does the synagogue occupy in present-day Jewish life? In October, *Sh'ma* offered a wide range of views about the future of the synagogue. With micro-institutions gaining momentum, energy, and constituencies large enough to challenge the synagogue as the central address of Jewish ritual life, and at a time of declining institutional affiliation (except among the Orthodox), the October issue of *Sh'ma* is devoted to exploring how the synagogue will face its challenging future. There is a blog on the topic at [www.shma.com](http://www.shma.com), where you can also sign-up for the free digital edition of the *Sh'ma* journal.

**Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival's** two-week Fall Festival opens at The Gershan Y on November 3rd, presenting 12 film events at venues throughout the city through November 18th — "a compelling and provocative line-up with high-quality independent Jewish cinema from around the world." Visit [www.pjff.org](http://www.pjff.org) for ticket information and full line-up.

(Rabbi's Column, continued from page 1)  
to live on this earth. The sages of our tradition instruct us to offer blessings even when faced with a mighty storm — but I doubt they could have pictured a future paradigm in which we understand ourselves to be co-creators of our planet's climate conditions, as many of us now do. A storm like this one is a reminder of God's infinite and awe-some power — and also of our own role and responsibility in creating a planetary system where ice is melting, currents are changing, and a summer of searing drought is followed by wind and rain we can't help but fear.

May we all stay safe and dry and comfortable. May no one lose power; or, when we do, may we have enough to eat, a roof that keeps us dry, the companionship of family and friends. May no one else die because of this storm. And when we reach the other side, may we take our fear and use the experience to make a blessing, to take whatever steps we can to mend what is broken — in our communities and on our Earth.

Biv'racha/In blessing,

Rabbi Anna



## In Our Shul...

### Member News

Rob Weintraub's mother, Elaine Weintraub, passed in early October at her home in Deerfield Beach, Florida. People can reach out to Rob via email [rweintr@gmail.com](mailto:rweintr@gmail.com) or on his cell at 267-939-7617. May Elaine Weintraub's memory be for a blessing.

We're sorry to report that Joan Plumb's dog Solo died recently, at a very old age. Joan reported recently that Solo was a faithful companion during her recent recovery and did everything possible to protect her.

Mazel tov to Arli Necowitz and her entire family for leading a beautiful Bat Mitzvah ceremony. Reports of Arli's skills came in from far and wide.

Mazel tov to Rabbi Anna on her new position, vice chair of Rabbis for Human Rights — North America (RHR-NA) board! This means that next year she'll be co-chair if all goes well.

## Refuah Shleymah (Get Well Wishes)

Norma Kaplis is at home after having had cataract and retinal-related eye surgery. If you want to reach out to Norma, send emails to [normakaplis@mac.com](mailto:normakaplis@mac.com). Please no phone calls at this time. Debbie Chong is coordinating our Chicken Soup Brigade. Please also remember Arline Kessler, Paula Adler's mother.

Joan Plumb is moving around better on her own now, but could still use human contact.

AND Goldie Cohen is still recovering from her serious back surgery. Please call Goldie directly to arrange visits and food deliveries: 215-579-0686.

### Home Bound (and would love visitors!)

Susan Kitces, Anna Kitces's mom (lives at the Kitces/Fishman residence)

Ettie Kernis, Bobbie Posmontier's mom (lives at the Posmontier residence)

Eddie Mann, Diane Gold's dad (lives at Manor Care in Yardley)

## Contributions

### Chai for TvS

Debbie and Victor Chong

Fran and Bernie Heyman

Sharon and Jerry Manas

Zvi Schram

### General Operating Fund

from Anonymous, with gratitude to Arnie Gold, keeper of the books and so much more

from Debbie and Victor Chong, in memory of Elsie Kuzma and wishing a mazal tov to Stephen Perloff, recipient of the Colin Ford Award

from Janis Gemelfarb, with gratitude to Max Yaffe for selling his car to my son and with mazal tov wishes to Ralph Posmontier on his 65th birthday

from Susan deLone, in honor of Ralph's 65th birthday

from the Necowitz family, with "gratitude to Arnie and Diane Gold for taking care of Nugget on Arli's bat mitzvah day. Thank you so much!!"

### High Holiday Contributions

Norman H. Blumenthal

Robert Blumenthal

Norma Kaplis, in honor of the High Holidays, and in memory of Noa's mom

Ken & Louise Klipper

Marlene Mendez, in memory of her parents, Isadore "Al" Rabinowitz and Ida Bennett Rabinowitz; and in memory of her dear friend, Myrna Belov Gordon  
Joyce Onsted

## Lifecycle Events at TvS

### Anniversaries:

Anna Kitces & Seth Fishman	November 10, 1991
Elana Braz & George Reese	November 15, 1986
Stan and Jenny Ornsteen James	November 17, 1994
Janis & Dan Gemelfarb	November 21

### Birthdays:

Bernie Heyman	November 3
Nora Leitner	November 4, 1994
Marc Fisher	November 6
Al Bossio	November 7
Amanda Posmontier	November 10, 1982
Jeanlu Ryersbach	November 12
Barb Goldman	November 16
Julian Bacher	November 21, 2004
Matthew Adler	November 16
Larry Kennedy	November 23

### Yahrzeits:

*Yahrzeit dates are listed here by the Jewish death day (according to the Jewish calendar) and its Gregorian equivalent this year. The original death date follows in parenthesis when available.*

Jack Bacher	1 Cheshvan/Oct. 17 (11/1/78)
Samuel Blask	14 Cheshvan/Oct. 30 (11/4/60)
Anne Sanders Grand	15 Cheshvan/Oct. 31 (11/4/98)
Fay Tabolsky Schram	16 Cheshvan/Nov. 1 (10/28/77)
Alex Kauffman	16 Cheshvan/Nov. 1 (10/28/07)
Alfredo Chong	22 Cheshvan/Nov. 7 (10/28/02)
Morris Berkowitz	22 Cheshvan/Nov. 7 (11/17/03)
Harold Schwartz	27 Cheshvan/Nov. 12 (11/6/99)
Hilda Rosenthal	2 Kislev/Nov. 16 (11/27/03)
Gertrude Kauffman	2 Kislev/Nov. 16 (12/2/78)
Ethel Rachel Kitsis	3 Kislev/Nov. 17
Gene Leitner	8 Kislev/Nov. 22 (12/9/05)
Ben Silberfein	17 Kislev/Dec. 1 (12/8/87)
Henry Blask	19 Kislev/Dec. 3 (11/30/07)

# Human Rights Shabbat 2012

Every year, more than 100 synagogues throughout North America commemorate Human Rights Shabbat, an RHR-NA initiative to educate Jewish communities about the intersection of Jewish values and universal human rights.

This year, Tzedek v'Shalom has officially signed up to participate.

**Friday, December 7**

6:30 p.m. Completely Singing Service

7:30 p.m. Dairy Delicious Potluck

**Led by our Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy,**

Vice-Chair of Rabbis for Human Rights — North America board



**Rabbis**  
for Human Rights  
North America  
[www.rhr-na.org](http://www.rhr-na.org)

Do Justice and Right

# Tikkun Olam Opportunities

Here are two organizations that might interest you and you may wish to attend an event in the future. One is in November and the other is seeking potential volunteer in April 2013. Contact me, please, if you want more information

Jeanlu

215-943-4565 or [Ryersbach@verizon.net](mailto:Ryersbach@verizon.net)

## ICLB (Interfaith Community of Lower Bucks) Thanksgiving service and potluck dinner

Sunday, November 18th at 5:00–7:30 p.m.

hosted by Kol Emet, 1360 Oxford Valley Road. Yardley, PA 19067

As a personal member of ICLB (Interfaith Community of Lower Bucks) and as representative for TvS, I would like to invite you to this Thanksgiving service and potluck dinner.

This is a food raiser for a number of food pantries in lower bucks county. So you are requested to bring a few things: You and a check made out to ICLB for the purchase of food OR food items that can be directly contributed to the food banks. Each of us is asked to bring a vegetarian dish to share and include a list of ingredients about your dish.

This is a time to think about and talk about the concept and actual practice of giving with people who are Buddhist, Christian, Eckankar, Jewish, Muslim, Native American, Quaker, Sikh, Unitarian, and non-believers, too.

If you have an interest please contact me at 215-534-2237 or [Ryersbach@verizon.net](mailto:Ryersbach@verizon.net) and will answer any interest or questions you may have.



## Family Promise of Lower Bucks (FPLB)

Family Promise of Lower Bucks (FPLB) is a non profit, non-denominational organization formed to assist families in transition, otherwise known as homeless. As a board member I was dumb struck learning that there were 420 identified, homeless students in the 2011 Bucks County schools.

FPLB is in the process of recruiting churches, temples, and mosques to take turns opening their community rooms or gymnasium or sanctuaries for a week to two weeks at a time to house overnight 15 people with nowhere else to go. These are guests who have not been chronically homeless but are in trouble now. They can be without shelter due to a lost job, a death, an illness.... FPLB is committed to working with the family, where there is always a child involved, to get sustainable living. We are cooperating with other groups working with the homeless; however, FPLB works with a family that has no untreated addiction or mental health issues challenging the adults. Family Promise is about catching families early in their fall. FPLB works with no more than 15 people at a time, attention can be focused on the financial mentoring, job search, other training.

At this point there are 171 affiliates around the country with a 70% success rate of finding housing. AND we have 5 churches, mosques and temples committed to housing families in the Lower Bucks area. We are looking for 13 churches, etc. in total, so that a facility will not have to house more than 7 days in any given year. We are also looking for a day center which would serve as a home base for the kids to go to school and grown-ups to their jobs. Some people would stay in the day center and receive classes, counseling and/or care for infants and toddlers.

In April, 2013, we will need volunteers to work with a full-time day center manager for a variety of jobs. Stay tuned as I write more about FPLB needs and you as a potential volunteer.

Again...want more information? Call me at 215-943-4565 or [Ryersbach@verizon.net](mailto:Ryersbach@verizon.net).

# WE DID IT!!!!

Thanks to the generosity and good will of Tzedek v'Shalom members and the general public, TvS has raised over \$350.00 profit from its Flower Power Fundraiser! Both paper and online sales combined were very impressive. With hopes that your flower bulbs arrive soon, so you can get them into the ground for beautiful surprise blooms in spring and summer! Linda Gold earned a Dunkin' Donuts gift card for her numerous sales, and Bobbie P.'s order came in a close second!



We will soon be continuing our fundraising opportunities with "eScrip" — so simple to do; we earn money for TvS just by using our credit cards at our local department and grocery stores! Can't wait to tell you about it!

All my best, Debby

## Mitzvah Corner

### Thank you to...

Elana Braz for orchestrating our first First Friday potluck — and volunteering to coordinate them all year, too!  
Rabbi Arli Necowitz and her student Anna Boswell-Levy for leading a robust Simchat Torah celebration. Arli's Torah reading was like an appetizer for her (then) upcoming Bat Mitzvah!

Joan Amatniek and Max Yaffe for pitching in and hosting when we needed to relocate our Torah study.  
Debby Bossio who has assumed the mantle of Fundraising Maven (or, maybe, Queen). What a great job on the Flower Power Fundraiser and promises of more programs to come. What a powerhouse!



### 2012 Lemon Run in Memory of Sarah Weintraub

November 11, 2012 at 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Memorial Hall Fairmount Park • 4231 North Concourse Dr. • Philadelphia, PA

Join Sharon and me to honor our daughter Sarah's memory by participating in this special run. We are walking, so you can walk with us or run the 5K if you like. If you can't join in, please consider donating to our team at Alex's Lemonade. Go to <http://www.alexlemonade.org/mypage/90907> to register for the event and join our team, whether or not you can participate. Of course, we would love to see you down there.

– Rob Weintraub (rweintr@gmail.com)

# TvS Calendar — November 2012 • *Cheshvan/Kislev 5773*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 – 16 Cheshvan <b>Hebrew classes</b> with Debbie on hiatus.	2 <b>First Friday</b> Shabbat Services followed by potluck 6:30 p.m. @ The Mollie Dodd Library at George School	3
4	5	6 <b>VOTE!</b>  Election Day	7	8 <b>Hebrew classes</b> with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 p.m.	9	10 <b>Torah Study</b> 10 a.m. – noon @ the Chongs' home
11  Veteran's Day	12  Veteran's Day Observed	13	14 <b>Board Meeting</b> 7 p.m. @ the Posmontiers' home	15 – 1 Kislev <b>Hebrew classes</b> with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 p.m.  <i>Rosh Hodesh Kislev</i>	16	17 <b>Shabbat Service</b> <b>Abigail Yaffe</b> <b>Bat Mitzvah</b> 9:15 a.m. @ NFMH
18	19	20	21	22  Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Spiritual Life Committee meeting 9:30 a.m. @ Rabbi Anna's home  Hebrew classes with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 p.m.	30	December 1

## Coming soon...

Look for another **FUN and EASY** opportunity  
(in addition to your monthly Chai) to contribute to TvS!

We will soon be continuing our fundraising opportunities with **“eScrip”** — so simple to do. We earn money for TvS just by using our credit cards at our local department and grocery stores! Can't wait to tell you about it!

Contact **Debby** Bossio if you can help make this happen:  
215-801-2005 or [deborahbossio@comcast.net](mailto:deborahbossio@comcast.net)

## Tzedek v'Shalom Tzedakah Opportunities

Donor (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the following fund:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Operating Fund          | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jordan Wallis TvS Memorial Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Fund                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Books Fund               | <input type="checkbox"/> Tzedakah Fund              |

**Please make checks payable to Tzedek v'Shalom.**

**Send to: Arnie Gold, Treasurer**

**Tzedek v'Shalom**

**Post Office Box 863**

**Newtown, PA 18940**

*Some suggested occasions you may wish to commemorate with your donations:*

🔗 With Gratitude to: \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

🔗 Mazel Tov to: Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> On the birth / naming / adoption | <input type="checkbox"/> On his/her graduation / birthday                    |
| of: _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> On their wedding / engagement / wedding anniversary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On becoming a bat/bar mitzvah    |  |

🔗 Condolences to: \_\_\_\_\_ on the recent

death of \_\_\_\_\_

🔗 In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

🔗 Get well wishes (Refuah Shelemah) to: \_\_\_\_\_

🔗 Special message: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an acknowledgment to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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